

A BAD EXAMPLE.

The position of the San Francisco press in the Kissane case will be viewed with astonishment by a class of people who have the old fashioned ideas regarding the dishonest accumulation of money, and the taking of human life.

The sight of half a dozen leading newspapers combining to condone the crimes of murder, theft, forgery, counterfeiting, perjury and swindling is not one calculated to instruct the rising generation.

In order to throw the shield of protection over one great criminal the San Francisco press is obliged, in order to be consistent, to cease its pursuit of other criminals of lesser degree. For months the papers at the Bay teemed with scathing editorials relative to the slow movements of justice, told how the murderers' row was filling up, and read the officers of the law sound sermons upon the laxity with which the law was administered.

The bribery of juries was made a special subject of editorial wrath, and the idea that gold was being used to obstruct the machinery of justice caused the newspapers to hint that ere long an outraged public would rise up and mete out swift vengeance to the guilty.

There was no suppressing of facts in the cases of any of the men. Goldensen has sisters and a mother, and Craig, the man charged with jury bribing, has sisters whose hearts have doubtless been torn as much as any of the Kissane relatives. Neither the press nor the officers of the law considered these things.

Why then should this fiend Kissane, who blew a young boy's brains out at Rivas, Mexico, in the Walker expedition, and roasted sixteen men, women and children alive in Ohio to get the insurance of a worthless cargo, be granted immunity from justice, because, like almost everybody else, he has relatives?

One can easily see how the proprietor of a newspaper, who has been for years on terms of friendship with some of Kissane's relatives, may refrain from giving these unpleasant matters publicity, but how such newspapers can grovel at the feet of such a man and become a public apologist for his crimes is past all comprehension.

Better men than Kissane have been lynched in California without a voice raised in their behalf.

While the attitude of the press presents a most sorry picture of journalistic subservience, what can be said in justification of the attitude of De Witt Talmage rising in the pulpit of New York to defend him and comparing him to Jean Valjean of *Les Misérables*? Talmage had better re-read the book. Valjean made restitution for his one act of petty theft committed under the sharp spur of hunger; Kissane refuses to make restitution, and all the bosh about his thirty-five years of blameless life is demolished, when it has come to light that he swindled a Sacramento man out of \$25,000 only six years ago.

The old witnesses against Kissane have one by one perished by the bullet or poison bowl, and only a few days ago he was stalking the streets of San Francisco threatening to kill General Darr on sight. Kissane is more like Louis IV, who repented of his robberies, but when the priest suggested that he make restitution, the old monarch looked up and replied:

"Is it not enough that I repent?" If Kissane does not pay the penalty of his crimes, the rising generation will be taught the lesson that crime that is successful is all right.

There is another millionaire on this Coast who is behind Kissane, for he knows that his past crimes will bring him to justice if Kissane hangs. There are other wealthy men behind these two, and if it costs five million dollars to cheat justice the money will be spent like water.

The receipts of the Mint last month were less than \$50, and the expenses over \$4,000. Over \$200,000 in silver however went past the Mint doors from the Comstock.

The Democratic press is in spasms of joy over the fact that the Democrats carried Rhode Island. Where the devil is Rhode Island and where did they carry it to.

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